

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Meeting of April 21, 2009
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Don Jones, Burr Taylor, Ann Nemrow, Tony Barrett (arr. 3:40pm). Absent: Anne Perry.
Guest: Marcel Polak, MEACC

Meeting called to order at 3:08 pm by M. Nahf. Minutes of April 14, 2009 approved unanimously.
Motioned by D. Strachan, seconded by A. Nemrow

Committee Reports:

Composter Update: No further info on sales at this point. DJ will contact Fred Cantu for sales numbers.

Adopt-a-road: Coordinator A. Perry not present. Town clean-up was Sat. April 18. M. Nahf reported that Bailey and Orr's Island looked good. HCC to do pick-up on Mountain Rd. in the proximity of Town Hall after May 5. Meeting.

Vernal Pools:

Quote from Sewall for infrared flyover came in at approx. \$21K. M. Nahf called Stantec and reported that they only do mapping, and will send estimate. D. Jones reported that Wayne and Readfield cost less than that. He will call J. Bley in Readfield to get more information emailed. Scale of survey discussed, 1"=1000' may be sufficient which might reduce the cost. Aerial survey misses about 30% of vernal pools. Colored infrared is by far the best option.

Phippsburg and Georgetown contacted M. Nahf to get more details on VP". They expressed interest in partnering with Harpswell if timing worked out. No decision is imminent at this point so we may have to proceed on our own. D. Strachan suggested sending an addendum to the grant request that was made to Environmental Funders Network if the towns join in.

Reviewed Aram Calhoun VP class in Yarmouth on April 19 that was attended by MAN, TB and DJ. Talked about why pools are important and how to sell that to residents of the Town.

Hildreth Road walk to look for vernal pools set for April 29. Those members who can attend to meet at the site at 9am.

Old Business:

Action Plan Activities reviewed:

Vernal pools may be medium priority not high. Discussed updating wetland protection of four wetlands. May postpone for now. Conservation education a high priority, emphasis should be on focus area. Historic pathways discussed, C. Tukey may have some helpful info and language on this. Town Lands and Recreation may assist with water access and portageable boat landings. Some members questioned if there was a need to discuss each action item at every meeting, it takes too long. How to structure activities in the future. Coordination of particular action items to contact MAN prior to each meeting to place on agenda.

Town Lands List:

DS supplied the list and HCC reviewed it. Discussed which parcels might have a conservation easement placed on them. A prioritized list is needed. Is Cliff Trail number one? Possibly Devils back. BT questioned whether easements should even be placed on Town Lands. Why is it important? What is the value? Are citizens interested in this type of thing being utilized? Should HHLT hold the easement?

Upcoming events:

ME Coastal Heritage Trust conference is May 2 in Brunswick. It may be filled at this point. MAN to make a brief presentation of our OSP process. DS to provide the details of the process. MEACC annual meeting to be 12:15-1:15.

DJ mentioned Conservation Fund. To be discussed more at a later date, maybe in conjunction with land acquisition.

New Business:

ME Coastal Waters Conference in Northport on Oct. 28. Harpswell contacted to represent a coastal community, on the panel. Those members interested in attending should make plans now.

HCC Mission Statement. TB moved to use last years, DJ seconded. Unanimous.

Election of officers: MAN re-elected Chair. AN motioned, DS seconded. Unanimous. DS re-elected at Vice Chair. MAN motioned, AN seconded. Unanimous. DJ elected secretary. MAN motioned, DS seconded. Unanimous. Commission expressed thanks to Anne Perry for her past service in this capacity. Discussed bringing associate members in. Tulle Frazier mentioned. Also individuals who are water monitors in town may have some interest.

TB mentioned that Jay Chace, former town planner had read the OSP and thought it was good.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05

D. Jones, ~~act'g~~ secretary